

RECOMMENDATION 10

Endorse and promote regional science and technology-based economic development programs.

North Carolina's seven regional economic development partnerships and the North Carolina Board of Science and Technology conducted region-specific conferences related to the Vision 2030 Project. Each Partnership developed recommendations for initiatives to enhance the region's science and technology-based economic development programs. Their recommendations, along with an explanatory note, are noted below boxed in blue.

The North Carolina Board of Science and Technology is making an additional recommendation for each region based upon a synthesis of input from Vision 2030 Regional Conferences and Focus Group Meetings. The Board's recommendations are noted below boxed in green.

A more detailed description of these recommendations will be released in late summer 2000 in The Vision 2030 Project: Compilation of all Vision 2030 Recommendations.

ADVANTAGEWEST

PROVIDE ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CURRICULA VIA DISTANCE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY TO WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGES, APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE, AND WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY.

WHY- Access to the North Carolina State University School of Engineering and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte School of Information Technology to the western part of the State needs to be expanded to enhance the marketability of western North Carolina's workforce to science and technology-based industries.

SUPPORT THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA KNOWLEDGE COALITION

WHY- The western part of North Carolina has created a Knowledge Coalition with funds coming from a predominant federal source. Additional funds need to be solicited for this effort to create accessible education across the world wide web involving all of the educational institutions in the region.

CAROLINAS PARTNERSHIP

ENHANCE THE CAROLINAS PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE AND CREATE AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DATABASE.

WHY- The growth of the Internet as an economic development resource has exploded, becoming one of the most effective tools available for site selection and project development. Prospect leads originating from the Partnership's existing website have grown from less than one percent in 1997 to 21% in 1999. Upgrading the website will provide an interactive networking link to other non-profit and government groups throughout the Partnership region.

SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FINANCIAL SERVICES INSTITUTE IN CHARLOTTE

WHY- To support and maintain the Carolinas region's strong financial services industry, the State should support an initiative by the University of North Carolina-Charlotte and the Greater Charlotte Chamber of Commerce to create a financial services center.

RESEARCH TRIANGLE

DEVELOP 3 TO 5 MULTI-USE BUSINESS PARKS AT STRATEGICALLY PLACED RURAL LOCATIONS IN THE RESEARCH TRIANGLE REGION. THESE PARKS ULTIMATELY WOULD BECOME MINI-HUBS THAT WOULD FEED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL GROWTH AROUND THE REGION'S RIM.

WHY- The development of mini-hubs would attract companies in science and technology-related industries, thus providing more opportunities to citizens of the Research Triangle region who have been left untouched by the technology prosperity experienced by the urban core.

CREATE A REGIONAL GENOMICS CONSORTIA

WHY- A Genomics Consortia should be developed that would include a partnership of researchers from NCSU, UNC-CH, Duke, NCCU, NC Biotechnology Center, NC Supercomputing Center, and the Research Triangle Institute. Such an effort will leverage existing expertise and reduce the cycle time in the development of genomics-based research and commercial products.

